

OTHER NOTICES

Chesser, Eustace. *How to Make a Success of Your Marriage.* London, 1952. The Bodley Head. Pp. 103. Price 6s. *Marriage and Freedom.* Revised edition. London, 1952. Rich & Cowan. Pp. 175. Price 12s. 6d.

THESE two books are written with Dr. Eustace Chesser's usual verve and vigour. The platitudes (which none of us live up to though we may know them by heart) are lightened by plums of expression, such as "sex is full of emotional gunpowder," and by anecdotes illustrating the incompatibilities of male and female.

Marriage, Dr. Chesser assures us, is not only a great adventure full of exciting pitfalls and unanticipated snags, but also a gruelling experience which only stout hearts and cool heads will eventually master and make into something worth while and even pleasant. Indeed, he is against divorce, chiefly, it would seem, because if a loophole of escape is left, few will not avail themselves of it.

The most fatal aspect of the whole affair is the romantic approach. Woe betide those who have been brought up on fairy tales and believe that once they marry they may unreasonably expect to live happily ever after. Every adult mind knows that this is not so and that to anticipate any such thing is a major cause of disaster. These books should therefore be read by young couples very soon after marriage—not before, lest they decide never to marry at all and the race becomes extinct or at any rate disgenic, but just as they are beginning to find out these things for themselves. They will then learn that their own personal tragedy is universal and can be mitigated—if not entirely overcome—by adult behaviour on both sides and a really valiant effort to understand a person of the opposite sex, whose outfit is entirely different. If only women would face the fact that men are rational creatures, and men the equally disconcerting fact that women have wonderful intuitions, which, however unreasonable, often turn out to be true, how much happier we should all be! Has Dr. Chesser ever wondered whether perhaps the make-up of women may not have been conditioned throughout the ages by the attitude and wishes of men?

These books may therefore be safely recommended to the newly married and should stimulate their efforts to make a success of married life. Nor need they be unduly discouraged when told that "it may take us one hundred years or more to become entirely free from the ill effects of the old outlook." Surely with Dr. Chesser's help they might do it in about fifty years—if the atomic bomb will give them so long.

URSULA GRANT DUFF.

Idelberger, Karlheinz. *Die Zwillingspathologie des angeboren Klumpffusses.* Supplement to *Zeitschrift für Orthopädie.* Vol. 69. Stuttgart, 1939. *Die Erbpäthologie der sogenannten angeborenen Hüftverrenkung.* *Brun's Beiträge zur klinischen Chirurgie.* Munich and Berlin, 1951.

THESE two monographs by Professor Idelberger of Gottingen, one on congenital dislocation of the hip and the other on congenital club-foot, are excellent examples of the use of twins for genetic study. In each case the twins were identified by listing a great many patients with the malformation from hospitals, clinics and the organisation for the care of cripples, and then inquiring from the Register Offices whether the child had a twin. Idelberger then visited the homes of all the twin pairs, checking the diagnosis and, where both twins had survived, determining the type of twinning present.

Both studies gave a definite indication that genetic factors were important in causing these deformities, since the identical twin pairs were much more often both affected than were the fraternal pairs. The actual figures in congenital dislocation of the hip were: identical twins 12 of 29, fraternal twins of the same sex 0 of 52, fraternal twins of different sex 3 of 57, both affected. For congenital club-foot the figures were: identical twins 8 of 35, fraternal twins of like sex 2 of 65, fraternal twins of different sex 1 of 68, both affected.

These findings also indicate that only a minority of children with genetic constitutions predisposing to these deformities do in fact develop them. It would appear that some environmental disturbance must affect one twin but not the other while they are still in the mother's womb. One such factor might well be local mechanical pressure of the womb on the embryo as has been suggested by Mr. Denis Browne. Idelberger found that club-foot, but not dislocation of the hip, appeared to be unduly common in twins and one might expect the mother's womb to be relatively overcrowded in a twin pregnancy.

Studies of this kind involve an immense amount of work, but, provided that a series of considerable size is collected together, the twin method is a most valuable one for working out the importance of genetic factors in determining malformations. Though such studies do not give much information on the mechanism of inheritance, they help to assess the usefulness of further investigation by suitable studies of family pedigrees.

C. O. C.

Kretschmer, E. *A Text-Book of Medical Psychology*. (Translated by E. B. Strauss.) London, 1952. Hogarth Press. Pp. xvi+352. Price 30s.

KRETSCHMER'S work on physique and character has made him very widely known, but it is sometimes assumed that his brilliant studies in this field make up his total scientific contribution; some even regard him as merely the precursor of W. H. Sheldon. This is an injustice to a psychiatrist of distinguished achievement who has ranged widely. His text-book of medical psychology has the great merit of bringing together much material embedded in German literature not easily available elsewhere, and welding it into a coherent account. Defects due to neglect of recent work in psychology and other fields published outside the German-speaking countries are counter-balanced by a critical and considered viewpoint based on great clinical experience and erudition.

This translation, like that of the fourth edition, has been carried out with fidelity and care by Dr. E. B. Strauss, who is a former pupil of Professor Kretschmer. There is room for occasional criticism of his translation of mechanical terms, e.g. his substitution of "collodethyme" for the self-explanatory term "viscous" which Kretschmer uses to denote a kind of ponderous, slow, yet tenacious temperament.

HILDA LEWIS.

Leakey, L. S. B. *Mau Mau and the Kikuyu*. London, 1952. Methuen. Pp. 115. Price 7s. 6d.

THIS book, admirably lucid and expectedly informed, should be read by everybody who wants to understand the world in which we live, especially Africa, and more especially Kenya. Its particular concern to eugenists is that one of the main remedies suggested by Professor Leakey for the unhappy condition of that country is birth control. The main problem at the moment is the distribution of land, but, underlying this, the real cause of "land-hunger" is the increase of population. It is interesting, and encouraging, that birth control has been a part of Kikuyu culture, even of religion. "In the days before the British came to Kenya the rate of the population increase was kept at a low level... because there were limiting factors operating. One of these was the Kikuyu rule which forbade a woman to start a new child until the one she was suckling was weaned. Since children were very seldom weaned before they were two years old, babies were spaced roughly at the rate of one in three years.... This limitation of birth... was not achieved by abstinence from sexual life but rather by the use of a method of

birth control." It would seem that this method has been lost. But "unless birth control, wisely operated, again becomes a common Kikuyu practice, it is not easy to see what will be the economic future of this vigorous tribe of agriculturalists on the land actually and potentially available to them in the years ahead." (p. 21.)

The three main reforms advocated by Professor Leakey are: (1) A better distribution and settlement of land tenure; (2) Better education, and especially a better presentment of simple, genuine Christianity—which includes abolition of the colour bar; and (3) Renewal of Kikuyu birth control.

URSULA GRANT DUFF.

Schlaginhaufen, Otto. *Die Anthropologie der Steinzeit Schweiz*. Reprinted from Tschumi, Otto (Ed.) *Urgeschichte der Schweiz*, Vol. I. Frauenfeld, 1949. Verlag Huber. Pp. 369-405. n.p.

THIS comprises one chapter of a book on the prehistory of Switzerland, edited by Otto Tschumi. Working within a relatively restricted field, Professor Schlaginhaufen of Zurich uses the methods of physical anthropology, which are by no means free from danger because their appeal, and so that of the paper, tends to be confined to the anthropologists who are principally interested in the metrical examination of the skeletal remains of population groups. If an author is not to restrict himself in such a way, then he must make a clear equation between physical type and material culture, and this the study under review fails to do, chiefly, one must admit, because essential evidence is lacking.

Professor Schlaginhaufen is mainly concerned with the mesolithic and neolithic periods, although he also deals with the palæolithic. He is intent on discovering the physical types, the population groups, which brought the mesolithic culture to Switzerland, but he is impeded by the fact that no sure association between the physical type and the mesolithic culture has been established. Even in dealing with the neolithic period he suffers from the fact that, in comparison with the number of sites that have been found, there is a scarcity of skeletal remains. Nevertheless, in his conclusions he does succeed in differentiating the Cromagnon, the pile-dwelling and the megalithic peoples.

A most impressive feature of his story is its photographs of skeletal remains—better could hardly be desired—and the comprehensive tables of measurements will be warmly welcomed by those interested in the statistical aspect of the subject. The appended bibliography should be of valuable assistance to any who wish to take it further.

ALAN LORR.